per quintal linked to 8.5 per cent recovery, with proportionate premium for recoveries higher than 8.5 per cent. Last season, the minimum price fixed was Rs. 14.00 per quintal linked to 8.5 per cent recovery.

(c) The farmers have been demanding a price ranging from Rs. 28 to 50/- per quintal. The Government have, as stated in reply to part (b) above, increased the statutory minimum price by Rs. 2.50 per quintal this year. The actual prices, being received by the growers, however, range between Rs. 16.50 to Rs. 27/- per quintal.

Decline in drug trafficking

*34. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether drug trafficking showed a decline after the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 was brought into force on the 14th November, 1985; and

(b) if so, what is the quantity of drugs seized in the Punjab sector from the 15th November, 1985 to 31st January, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) As the new Act has come into force only with effect from 14th November, 1985, it is too early to assess its impact on drug trafficking. There has been a steep rise in the seizures of various drugs, consequent to the strengthening of the various enforcement machiney and equipping them with adequate powers under the Act.

(b) The quantity of drugs seized from the 15th November 1985 to 31st January, 1986 in the State of Punjab including the quantity seized on Pakistan border, is as under:—

Name of the drug	Quantity seized (Kgs.)
Opium . . .	1,113
Charas . . .	459
Heroin . . .	106

NOTE : Figures are provisional.

Production of carpets

*35. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of carpets, quality-wise, in finished form produced during 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85 and April 1985-January 1986 under the Carpet Weaving Training Scheme at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) what are the details of the service centres where the third stage of the syllabus for carpet weaving training was completed with details of the Centres during 1981-82 and 1982-83; and

(c) what are the reasons for not completing third stage of the syllabus in any service centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Working of Public Sector Banks

*36. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public sector banks have made huge profits during 1985;

(b) if so, what are the details of the profits made as compared to 1984;

(c) what steps Government have taken during the year 1985 to improve the efficiency and also profitability of the banks; and

(d) what are the names of the banks which have achieved good working results during the said year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) The final accounts of the 28 public sector banks for the year 1985 are at various stages of finalisation. Only after these accounts are finalised, it will be possible to indicate the actual profits earned by them during the year 1985 or a comparison of the same with the published profits for the year 1984. A quick estimate of the working results of the 28 public sector banks indicates that the published profits might go up by about 32 per cent in 1985 as compared to the published profits for the year 1984.

Government and Reserve Bank have taken a number of steps in 1985 for improving customer service and thereby improving the efficiency of banks. A number of specific steps have also been taken to improve the profitability of banks which include a better return on cash reserves kept with the Reserve Bank of India, higher rate of interest on food credit, the benefit of non-deduction of tax at source on interest on Government securities held by nationalised banks, allocation of additional capital to nationalised banks improved operational efficiency of the banks etc.

Illegal import of wool tops

*37. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite ban on the import of wool tops imposed by Government in August, 1986 the practice of illegally importing wool tops for domestic consumption by the importers is continuing and that some such cases have recently come to light; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the *modus operandi* of the importers and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) Wool tops are in the restricted list (App. 2B of 1985—88 Policy) and no import licences for the same are being granted.

Import of wool tops was permitted against Replenishment (REP) and Duty Free Advance licence upto 9-8-1984. After this date import of wool tops is not being allowed even against REP & Advance licence.

A newspaper report alleging that import of wool tops has been made in the garb of wool waste has come to notice. Facts are being ascertained from the Customs Authorities.

Rise in the prices of atta, maida and suzi

*38. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently increased the prices of Atta, Maida and Suzi; and